

**FOR PUBLICATION  
UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS  
FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT**

RAYMOND D. ROLEN,  
Plaintiff-Appellant,

v.

JO ANNE B. BARNHART,  
Commissioner of the Social

Security Administration,\*  
Defendant-Appellee.

Appeal from the United States District Court  
for the Central District of California  
Elgin C. Edwards, Magistrate Judge, Presiding

Argued and Submitted  
November 7, 2001--Pasadena, California

Filed December 11, 2001

Before: Myron H. Bright,\*\* Alex Kozinski and  
William A. Fletcher, Circuit Judges.

Opinion by Judge Kozinski

No. 00-56877

D.C. No.  
CV-99-00131-RT

OPINION

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\*Jo Anne B. Barnhart is substituted for her predecessor, Larry G. Mas-  
sanari, as Commissioner of the Social Security Administration. Fed. R.  
App. P. 43(c)(2).

\*\*The Honorable Myron H. Bright, Senior Circuit Judge for the Eighth  
Circuit, sitting by designation.

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## **COUNSEL**

Martin Taller, Anaheim, California, argued the cause for the appellant.

John Carvelas, San Francisco, California, argued the cause for the appellee.

## OPINION

KOZINSKI, Circuit Judge:

Rolen applied for Social Security disability benefits in 1991, claiming that he had been disabled since 1989. The Administrative Law Judge dismissed his application on procedural grounds. A notice accompanying the dismissal order advised Rolan that "[i]f you disagree with the enclosed order of dismissal, you have the right to appeal." The notice did not advise Rolan that he could file a new application.

Four years later, Rolan filed a second application for benefits based on the same disability. The Appeals Council upheld the ALJ's finding that Rolan had been disabled since 1989, but declined to hold that the Commissioner should have reopened the 1991 application. As a result, Rolan is entitled to retroactive benefits only for the twelve months before his 1996 application. See 20 C.F.R. § 404.621(a)(1)(i). Had the Commissioner reopened Rolan's 1991 application, Rolan would have received approximately five years of additional retroactive benefits. See id.

Rolan sought judicial review in district court, claiming that he was denied due process because he was not advised, when his 1991 application was dismissed, that he could have his claim considered on the merits by filing a new application. The district court concluded that it lacked jurisdiction to review the Commissioner's refusal to reopen Rolan's 1991 application.

In this the district court erred. The court has jurisdiction to review the Commissioner's decision not to reopen a final benefits decision if the claimant presents a "colorable constitutional claim of [a] due process violation that implicates a due process right either to a meaningful opportunity to be heard or to seek reconsideration of an adverse benefits determination." Evans v. Chater, 110 F.3d 1480, 1483 (9th Cir.

1997) (internal quotations and citations omitted). A claim is "colorable" if it is not "wholly insubstantial, immaterial, or frivolous." Id. (quoting Boettcher v. Sec'y of Health & Human Servs., 759 F.2d 719, 722 (9th Cir. 1985)). Because Rolen claims that he lost benefits because he was denied due process, and cites arguably relevant caselaw in support of his due process claim, he satisfies this standard. Therefore, the district court had jurisdiction to review the Appeals Council's refusal to reopen the 1991 application.

Though colorable, Rolen's due process claim fails. To satisfy due process, the notice accompanying an Order of Dismissal of a Social Security benefits application "must be reasonably calculated to afford parties their right to present objections." Gonzalez v. Sullivan, 914 F.2d 1197, 1203 (9th Cir. 1990) (citation omitted). Moreover, the notice must not be so "misleading that it introduces a high risk of error into the disability decisionmaking process." Id.

The notice accompanying the order dismissing Rolen's 1991 application satisfied this standard. It informed Rolen that he could present objections by seeking administrative review of the ALJ's dismissal. Thus, it was reasonably calculated to inform Rolen of his right to present objections. Additionally, the notice accurately stated the law, and therefore was not misleading.

We reject Rolen's argument that he was entitled, as a matter of due process, to a notice advising him of his right to file a new application. Gonzalez does not require that a notice provide strategic legal advice, or inform claimants about all possible responses to a dismissal. Gonzalez merely requires that notices inform claimants of what they must do if they wish to present objections to a dismissal.

The district court did not err in holding that it lacked jurisdiction to review Rolen's challenge to the Appeals Council's holding that 20 C.F.R. § 404.630 does not apply to for-

mal appeals of existing actions. That challenge is not a  
"colorable constitutional claim of [a] due process violation."  
Evans, 110 F.3d at 1483.

**AFFIRMED.**

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